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64-13 M77-67-78

439316

QUATERY (3)

REPORT ON 1 May 3152

CONTRACT NO DA 92 / 557 & FEC 35675

INCLUSIVE DATES May 1, 1962 TO July 31, 1962

SUBJECT OF INVESTIGATION

EXPLORATION OF NEW CHERMOTHERAPEUTICS
FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES

RESPONSIBLE INVESTIGATOR

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MAY 12 1964

U.S. Army Research & Development Group (9852) (Far East)

Office of the Chief of Research and Development

United States Army

APO 343

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EXPLORATION OF NEW CHEMOTHERAPEUTICS

FOR

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Fundamental Studies on Protomycin, an Antiamoebic
Antibiotic and Cephalomycin, an Antiviral anti-
biotic

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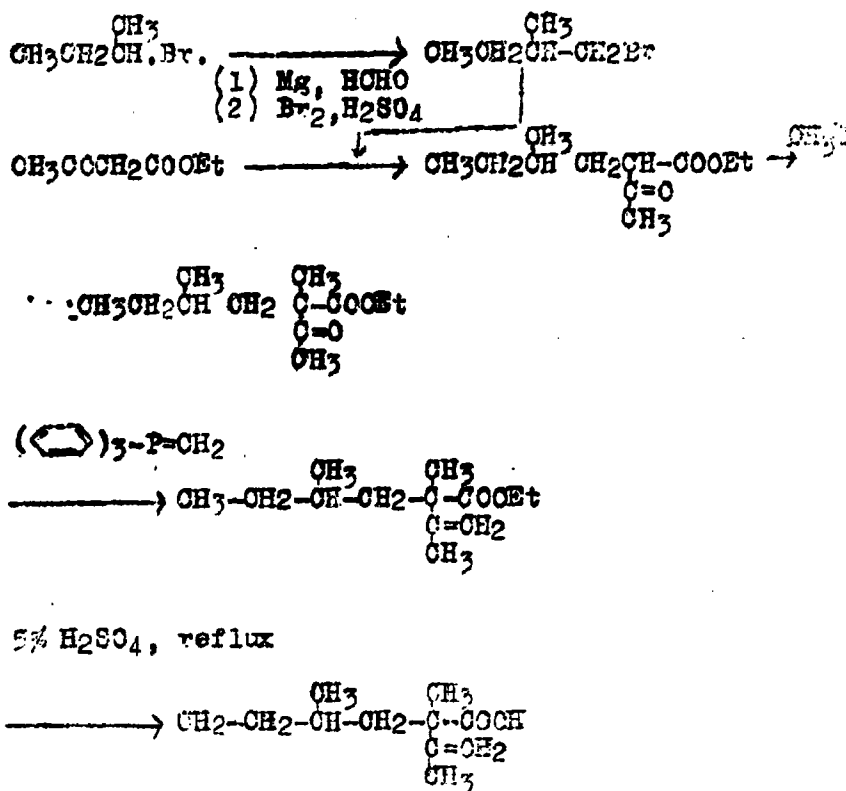
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Tokyo, Japan

CHEMICAL STRUCTURE OF PROTOMYCIN

Tetrahydroprotomycin (I) was converted into oxime with hydroxylamine-pyridine in ethanol. The reaction mixture remained viscous inspite of several procedures of purification, so that it was treated with 10ml of 75% H₂SO₄ on boiling water bath to induce Beckmann's rearrangement. The reaction mixture was diluted with 20 volumes of water and steam distilled. The oily acid in the distillate was treated with p-phenylazophenacylbromide. The resulting ester (II) orange colored and melting at 54-55°C, satisfied the molecular formula, C₂₅H₃₀N₂O₄. Thus, the oxime of tetrahydro protomycin gave an acid, C₁₀H₁₉COOH, by Beckmann's rearrangement followed by hydrolysis.

The structure of the acid was proved by the synthesis of the acid through following steps, employing Wittig's reaction:



The synthetic acid was converted to p-phenylazophenacyl ester (IV) M.P. 60-62°C.

The mixed melting point (55°C), elemental analysis and infrared spectrum were sufficient to conclude the identity of the compounds (II) and (III).

A C₁₁-acid from tetrahydropyromyoin oxime.

A mixture of tetrahydropyromyoin (1.28g, 3.66 mol), pyridine (290cc) and hydroxylamine hydrochloride (254mg) in 10 ml ethanol was refluxed for two hours, evaporated, washed with water and ether and dried.

Since the residue remained viscous in spite of several treatments, 10 ml. of 80% sulfuric acid was added, heated on boiling water bath for 1 hour, poured into 200 ml. of cold water, and steam-distilled. The distillate containing floating oily material consumed 2.04 mol equivalent of sodium hydroxide on neutralization with standardized 0.1N NaOH. The neutralized solution was evaporated in vacuo and refluxed with 500 mg of p-phenylazophenacyl bromide in 80% aqueous ethanol for two hours. The reaction mixture was evaporated to dryness and separated from original reagent by silicic acid chromatography developed with benzene. Twice recrystallization from 95% EtOH gave orange needles (II), M.P. 54-55°C.

Anal. Calcd. for C₂₅H₃₀N₂O₃: C, 73.71; H, 7.79; N, 6.60.

Found: C, 73.86; H, 7.44; N, 6.49.

The elemental analysis suggested the original acid to have an empirical formula of C₁₀H₁₉-21 COOH.

p-phenylazophenacyl- α -methyl, α -iso-propenyl- γ -methyl caproate (III)

Synthetic active amyl bromide (b.p. 121-125°C) for starting material was prepared according to conventional method of Grignard reaction and bromination from sec. butylbromide and formaldehyde, followed by treatment with H₂SO₄-HBr.

To 40 ml. of ethanol was dissolved 3g of metallic sodium and 17g of ethyl acetoacetate. The active amyl bromide prepared above (21.5g, 0.13 mol.) was added dropwisely to this solution with stirring over a period of 2 hours. After completion of the addition, the reaction mixture was heated to refluxing and stirred for more five hours, cooled, added with about 5 ml. of acetic acid and extracted with ether.

After removing ether, the residue was distilled in vacuo to obtain 9.5g (0.055 mol.) of ethyl active amyl-acetoacetate. B.P. 106°C, 10 mm. Hg.

To ethanol (25cc), dissolving 1.15g of metallic sodium was added the above obtained ethyl active amyl-aceto acetate. To the resulting solution was added methyl iodide (2.6g) dropwisely with stirring over a period of one hour and refluxed for additional three hours. The reaction mixture was treated as above. The distillate at 55°C (7 mm Hg) was collected. Yield 5.5g (0.025 mol.).

To 4.4g of bromobenzene in 14 ml. of ether was added 400 mg. of metallic lithium. After spontaneous reaction had subsided, the reaction mixture was heated to reflux to dissolve remaining portion of the metal. To the resulting solution was added 12g of triphenyl methyl phosphonium bromide and stirred for 30 min. The above prepared ester (5.5g) in 15 ml. ether was added and stirred for 30 minutes, followed by refluxing for five hours. The resulting mixture was filtered and the filtrate was evaporated. The residue was distilled to give an oily material 43-45°C (7 mm Hg), 1.2g (0.006 mol.).

The oily material was refluxed with 200 ml. of 5% H_2SO_4 for five hours and steam distilled. The distillate was neutralized with standardized 0.1N NaOH (0.0038 mol.), dried up in vacuo and treated with p-phenylazophenacyl bromide in ethanol. The resulting ester (III) was freed from the reagent through silicic acid chromatography and recrystallized from ethanol. Chromatography on silicic acid and recrystallization were repeated, in refering to infrared spectrum.

The infrared spectrum of the ester was completely identical with the corresponding derivative from protomycin (II) Mixed melting point of (II) and (III) was 55°C in several ratios of mixing.